

**Post soccer season ends***Signal Company wins regular season title*

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Troopers tracking*Fort Riley Middle School teams compete in two meets*

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Friday, May 13, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 19

Around The Army**Germany:**

The European Stars and Stripes reported May 11 that a major rift has emerged between the Pentagon brass and the Army's top commander in Europe about how best to relocate tens of thousands of troops - and their families - to new postings in the United States.

Military leaders want to restation both of the Army's two Germany-based divisions - the 1st Infantry Division and 1st Armored Division, as well as several smaller units - back to the United States as part of a worldwide redistribution of overseas forces. The disagreement concerns whether troops based in Europe should return to Europe from Iraq before coming to the United States or return directly to the United States.

Acting Undersecretary of the Army Ray Dubois favors the latter approach. That contradicts promises made by Gen. B.B. Bell, the Army's top commander in Europe. In fact, Bell says, the only way to protect quality of life is to ensure troops rejoin their families in Europe first.

For more on this story and other U.S. military news in the European and Pacific theaters, visit www.estripes.com on the Web.

Fort Knox:

The Turret reported May 5 that a small, little known training unit, the 1st Armor Training Brigade is making a big impact on training.

The 6th Squadron, 15th Cavalry Regiment, which falls under the 3rd Battalion, 81st Armor Regiment, consists of a mix of active component and reserve component cadre and instructors.

Instructors typically serve from 18 months to three years at Fort Knox. Under the new Active Duty Stabilization, they could stay for up to five years. The 100th Division personnel from the 2-397th and 2-399th Regiments will serve from 19 to 24 months under the current orders.

Active drill sergeants serve from two to three years on the trail. Reserve drill sergeants are on the trail until they are promoted out of their position, or choose to leave the unit. Some of the 100th Division drill sergeants have been on the trail for more than five years.

For more on this story and other Fort Knox news, visit www.thewesternenterprise.com/tu/rre/ on the Web.

Fort Polk:

The Guardian reported April 29 that one Soldier on the post was filling a unique position - being the only female explosive ordnance disposal specialist on post. She is one of only 20 female EOD specialists in the Army.

Cpl. Michelle Brown of Flournoy, Wash., said she wanted to be an Army firefighter, but her recruiter steered her toward the EOD field because firefighting had been phased out as an Army specialty.

"I'm thankful because EOD is a great job," she said.

For more about this story and other Fort Polk news, visit www.jrte-polk.army.mil on the Web.

Fort Riley family housing to privatize

Staff report

The Army announced that Picerne Military Housing, L.L.C. will develop the Community Development and Management Plan for Fort Riley as part of the Army's Residential Communities Initiative.

Under the RCI program, the Army plans to privatize family housing at 45 installations - more than 83,000 family housing units - located throughout the United States.

Picerne will work with the Army to develop the plan, which will serve as the blueprint for the Army's residential communities at Fort Riley. The plans preparation is expected to take about six months.

Implementation is expected to begin in July 2006, following the Army's acceptance of the plan and its review by Department of Defense, the Office of Management and Budget and Congress.

During the anticipated 50-year management term, all family housing at Fort Riley will be rehabilitated or replaced.

The RCI also will bring new community centers, other facilities and amenities to meet family housing needs at Fort Riley. Neighborhoods will be designed to complement the natural environment at Fort Riley, Army officials said. This project will affect 3,050 family housing units on Fort Riley.

"Picerne Military Housing has an excellent reputation and will be a great partner for Fort Riley," said Charlie Williams, Fort Riley RCI director. "Their development philosophy, as well as the commitment they have to the Army families, will result in a wonderful improvement to the quality of life here."

The Army is committed to improving family housing as a means of sustaining the quality of life for Soldiers and families,

Williams said.

Through the RCI program, the Army engages private sector firms in public-private partnerships to manage, build, renovate, maintain and operate family housing. The RCI program is part of the Army's plan to alleviate housing shortages, improve the condition of its existing housing and sustain quality communities during the 50-year life of the projects.

See RCI, Page 3

Urban training



19th PAD/Tamez

Soldiers with the 1st Eng. Bn. capture a hostile individual, search him for weapons and await transportation to take him back to base as part of the urban operations training at Fort Riley May 3.

Unit maneuvers through mock village

By James Tamez

19th PAD

The Soldiers carefully made their way through the village, knowing that somewhere nearby an improvised explosive device maker waited for his chance to kill any American who crossed his path.

The situation was simulated at Fort Riley but the attention the Soldiers of Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion, devoted to it wasn't. They took seriously the May 2-3 training that would help prepare them for modified Military Operations in Urbanized Terrain they could face in Iraq.

"Today we did a react-to-contact scenario," said Capt. Travis Rayfield, Co. C

commander. "It is a scenario that forces leaders to make decisions. This iteration is designed to overwhelm leaders and make them think about what actions to take if they run into contact. It is also designed to make leaders take charge of the situation and make decisions in the best interest of their personnel in accomplishing the mission."

The idea is to make the training difficult and to incorporate problems so Soldiers are prepared for any situation, one staff sergeant explained.

"The encounter they faced today was a mixture of combatants and noncombatants on site," said Staff Sgt. David Jorgensen of Co. C. "They had to react to civilian contact and insurgent contact throughout. The

setup for the scenario is there is an IED specialist living in this village. The unit has to come in and capture him so that the number of IEDs in the area will go down."

Charged with that task, the Soldiers encountered additional problems, making it difficult to accomplish the mission.

"They ran into a complex situation," Rayfield said. "They came across people they couldn't communicate with because they spoke different languages. They ran into people who looked like they might be demonstrating a hostile intent. They had peers getting hurt or killed and ran into maintenance problems."

The reasoning behind such training is

See MOUT, Page 2

Armor officer wins honor

Ayers earns MacArthur leader award

By Austin Meek

Staff writer

An armor company commander at Fort Riley will receive the prestigious MacArthur Leadership Award in a ceremony planned for May 25 in Washington, D.C.

Capt. Nicholas Ayers, commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, is among 12 active duty officers and one active duty warrant officer who will receive the award presented by the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Foundation.

Six officers and one warrant officer in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve were also selected.

Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker will host the awards ceremony and a reception for the Soldiers. Each Soldier will receive a Memorandum of Commendation from Schoomaker, a gold watch from the Association of the U.S. Army and an engraved bronze bust of Gen. MacArthur from the MacArthur Foundation.

Ayers said the award was not one of his specific goals, but it was a very pleasant surprise. Ayers' commander, Lt. Col. Michael Higginbottom, nominated him for the award based on leadership performance during the past year.

After his initial nomination, Ayers was evaluated at higher levels of command and received endorsements all the way up his chain of command before being selected for the award.

"It's an honor, but it wasn't just me. It's for what the company's done and they've done a lot of good things in the last year," Ayers said.

Post community remembers fallen Soldier

By Jay Baker

Public affairs intern

Friends and family members attended a memorial service at Morris Hill Chapel May 3 to honor the life and service of Spc. David Lee Rice.

Capt. Dana Stowell paid tribute to Rice during the ceremony by telling those attending the service what other Soldiers who worked with Rice said about him.

"Capt. Greene, the task force fire support officer, commanded

David twice, first as his AIT (Advanced Individual Training) commander and later when Rice became part of the 2-34th Armor Fire Support Element. Capt. Greene remembers Rice for his smile and willingness to learn," Stowell said.

She also shared the thoughts of Capt. Jon Spurlock, who commanded Company B, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor.

She said Spurlock took special interest in Rice's development after noticing a complete turn

around in Rice's life after he made a couple of bad decisions. For example, "When Spurlock and Rice arrived in Iraq, he was given a carpenter's tool kit. ... He worked from dawn to dusk constructing furniture for his buddies. He always thought of others before himself," Stowell said.

Stowell shared her own impressions.

"My first impression of Rice came from a photo. He was the

**Spc. David Rice**

Rice died while conducting convoy operations in Iraq.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon and the Parachutist Badge.

See Memorial, Page 9





19th PAD/Tamez
Pvt. Justin Pierce of 2nd Plt., Co. C, 1st Eng. Bn., provides suppression fire while his squad prepares to go around the back of the building to flank the opposing force.

MOUT

continued from page 1

simple: Every Soldier will know what to do in the event of an emergency.

"We tried to run the full gamut of problems that are possible in a military operation," Rayfield said. "We wanted to present anything that could slow you down and make someone decide how to handle the situation. It is a scenario that forces leaders to make decisions."

For this scenario, Jorgensen said he acted as the opposing force squad leader and did his best to make sure the Soldiers would have the toughest possible training. He wanted to be as deadly as possible because the real enemy won't take it easy on any Soldier.

"Training is what you make of it," Jorgensen said. "It is not something that you just sit back, take notes and hope that you get something from it."

"This training is very useful because it is a practical exercise that incorporates everyone from the lowest private to the highest ranking NCO and all of the officers. It also gives the commander the opportunity to evaluate his troops in action and see in what

areas he needs to improve training and improve the troop's readiness."

Jorgensen said he believes it is essential that Soldiers get the training on the ground here before they go to war.

"After you deploy to Iraq or anywhere the military sends you, it is too late to work out the kinks," he said. "This training gives you the chance to figure out supply demands so that you can feed and arm troops. As a squad leader, you have to demonstrate command and control as you go bounding from one building to another. The platoon sergeant makes sure that there are beans and bullets for everyone."

Everybody has a role to play," Rayfield said the Soldiers were pushed hard. The emphasis was on making good decisions to accomplish their missions and to build confidence so the Soldiers are confident in their actions when the missions are not exercises, but real-world tasks, he said.

"You are going to fight as you train, so train as you fight," Rayfield said. "This training will make Soldiers better in combat."

Army honors food services' best

Teams recognized for excellence at San Diego ceremony

By Jamie L. Carson
Army News Service

SAN DIEGO — A dash of experience, a teaspoon of precision and a heaping handful of teamwork was the winning recipe for the 10 teams honored at the Philip A. Connelly awards in San Diego April 30.

Few units earn this recognition each year, said Lt. Col. Don Vitpil, Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence director.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, Camp Zama, Japan, won for small garrison dining facilities (200 customers or less per meal).

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, "Any Mission Diner," Heidelberg, Germany, was runner-up.

The "Warrior Sports Café" of 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment (OPFOR), Hohenfels, Germany, won for large garrison dining facilities (201 customers or more). Company C, Troop Support Battalion, 1st Corps Support Command, Fort Bragg, N.C., was runner-up.

"The Connelly program solidifies how important combat service support Soldiers are to the overall Army mission," said Staff Sgt. Mahamadou Soumaoro, food service specialist at the "Warrior Sports Café" in Hohenfels, Germany.

The award, established in 1968, recognizes excellence in Army food service. It was named for the late Philip A. Connelly, former president of the International Food Service Executives Association. The program is cosponsored by Department of the Army and IFSEA.

"For me, the Connelly program is the most prestigious competition in the Army. Being a member of a winning Connelly team is something that all food service specialists want deep inside next to serving our fellow Soldiers," said Spc. Julio Garcia, a cook at



ANS/Carson

Philip A. Connelly awardees talk with a food vendor at the International Food Service Executives Association's Tradeshow April 30 in San Diego.

the "Cold Steel Café" in Ansbach, Germany.

The awardees are selected by a Department of Army-level evaluation committee for providing the best food and food service support to their customers, Vitpil said.

The evaluators critique the competitors in areas such as food preparation, taste, nutrition, service and sanitation.

"Selecting the Army's best is a long and difficult challenge for our evaluators as they often find the units are separated by just tenths of points," Vitpil said.

For most of the Connelly awardees, there seemed to be one resounding factor that set their unit apart from the rest - teamwork.

"Although there are only two Soldiers on stage accepting the award, the honor is attributed to every member on our team," said

Sgt. 1st Class Nettia Lawrence-Harper, small garrison winner.

"For example, our food program manager at the time of the evaluation, Master Sgt. Gary Woods, led by example; and the time and energy he put into the program was a key factor to our success."

For Lawrence-Harper and fellow Soldier, Sgt. Roderes Martinez, participating in the Connelly program meant taking part in a time-honored Army tradition that exemplifies the Warrior Ethos.

"The mission comes first, and defeat is never an option," Lawrence-Harper said, "and in order for the mission to succeed, everyone must work as a union."

Twenty-three-year-old Staff Sgt. Courtney DePardo agreed that working together was the main ingredient for her unit's achievement.

"Teamwork is crucial to the

success of the mission. Without it, dining facilities would fail in customer service," said DePardo, small garrison runner-up. DePardo is the rations noncommissioned-officer-in-charge for the "Any Mission Diner" at U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army headquarters in Heidelberg.

DePardo's battle buddy, Sgt. 1st Class Benedict Tesoro, added that repetition also helped the team maintain a smooth operational tempo.

"In preparing for the competition, we practiced, then practiced some more. When we were done practicing, we threw in a little more practice," Tesoro said. "Whether it's a competition or everyday operations, everyone must fulfill their role."

Jamie L. Carson writes for the Fort Lee Public Affairs Office.

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Post news in brief

Holiday alters trash pick-up

The Memorial Day holiday will create a change in trash collection on post May 30 through June 3. The schedule is:

May 30 – No pick up, Memorial Day holiday.

May 31 – Colyer Manor, Main Post, Marshall Field, dumpster at Building 621.

June 1 – Ellis Heights, O'Donnell Heights, Peterson Heights north of Thomas Avenue and dumpsters at Buildings 28, 45, 471, 540, 541, 5309.

June 2 – Warner Heights, Burnside Heights and dumpster at Building 621. (No change from regular schedule.)

June 3 – Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, O'Donnell Heights, South Warner Heights, Peterson Heights south of Thomas Avenue and dumpster at Building 5309. (No change from regular schedule.)

For more information, call Paul Cassella at the Contract Inspection Branch, Directorate of Public Works, 239-6274.

Personnel staffs moving May 13

The personnel detachment and the casualty branch will complete its move to Building 212 May 13. Customer services will be limited and handled by appointment only while the move takes place.

To schedule an appointment, call 239-5218 for customer services, 239-4339 for officer records, 239-9727 for officer promotion, 239-5917 for enlisted promotion, 239-5810 for enlisted evaluation and 239-9295 for officer evaluation.

Normal operation will resume in Building 212 on May 16.

Education staff plans graduation

The combined graduation ceremony at Fort Riley will be 1 p.m. June 9 at King Field House. Counseling services at the learning centers will not be available the afternoon of June 9 because of the ceremony.

Fort Riley military personnel, family members and civilian personnel who are graduates of local college or SOCAD college programs are invited to participate in the post-wide graduation ceremony.

For more information about participation, call 239-6481.

ID Card Center to move May 16

The ID Card Center will be closed May 16 so it can be moved to Building 212 on Main Post.

For more information, call Gary Morris at 239-5667 or 239-9202.

Center offers victim support

Victim Advocate Services and the Family Advocacy Program are offering a domestic violence support group. Titled "Choices for Change," the group meets every Monday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264. Childcare may be arranged with prior notice.

Those interested in attending must contact Victim Advocate Services prior to attending. Call 239-9435 for more information.

Correction:

In the May 5 edition of the Fort Riley Post, the David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition was misidentified as the 2004 competition. It is the 2005 competition.

6th Brigade needs Soldier volunteers

Staff report

The Army is looking for Fort Riley enlisted Soldiers to volunteers for the new 6th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, being stationed at America's Warfighting Center in Kansas.

To volunteer, Soldiers must not be filling a critical or shortage military occupational specialty in their current brigade or unit and must not be scheduled for deployment.

Soldiers will be stabilized for a period of three years beginning Jan. 16, 2006.

Soldiers must be fully eligible to re-enlist for the three-year requirement if applicable.

Time on station (24 months or less) waivers will be automatically approved by DA.

Soldiers returning from deployment may have their 90-day stabilization period waived by the first lieutenant colonel in their chain of command.

Soldiers wanting to volunteer must complete a DA Form 4187 and submit it through their chain of command, endorsed by the first

lieutenant colonel commander or above.

The adjutant is required to have the following information on the DA Form 4187:

- The Soldier's arrival date to Fort Riley

- The Soldier's ETS date

- The statement: "I understand if this action is approved, I will be stabilized with the UA for a period of three years, until January 2009, with the 6th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division."

The brigade or independent separate battalion adjutants are required to process the requests through the Post Retention Office, where they will be screened for re-enlistment eligibility.

The approving authority for reassignment is the Enlisted Strength Management Office, G1 (DAPE-MPE-PD).

Further delegation of authority is not authorized.

Soldiers selected for the assignment will be notified by their adjutant upon approval from the G1 Enlisted Strength Management Office.

RCI continued from page 1

Picerne Military Housing, L.L.C. was founded in 1925 and is headquartered in Warwick, R.I.

It has created Military Housing Privatization Housing Initiative communities, private

housing and commercial properties throughout the United States.

Picerne also is the RCI partner for Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort George G. Meade, Md., Fort Polk, La., and Fort Rucker, Ala.

Fort Riley partners with Picerne Military Housing

By Bill Mulvey

Picerne Military Housing

Warwick, R.I. – With the announced military housing partnership between Fort Riley and Picerne Military Housing, PMH becomes one of only two companies to partner with five installations brought into the Army's Residential Community Initiative to privatize military housing.

PMH was awarded privatization partnerships for Fort Meade, Md., in 2001; Fort Bragg, N.C., in 2002; Fort Polk, La., in 2003 and Fort Rucker, Ala., in February 2005.

The Fort Riley partnership involves more than 3,000 military homes on post and provides PMH management for housing operations on post for the next 50 years.

"We are extremely excited that the Army has once again asked us to partner with them in providing quality family homes for the men and women who defend our country," said John G. Picerne, president and chief executive officer of Picerne Military Housing.

To help staff the Fort Riley operation, Picerne will eventually hire more than 100 people in the greater Manhattan and Junction City, Kan., areas and plans to use local and small businesses as much as possible.

A Community Development and Management Plan (CDMP) that will be jointly developed by Picerne and the Army will serve as the blueprint for the 50-year implementation of this residential community project.

On the Web

For more information about Picerne Military Housing, visit www.picernemilitaryhousing.com

The company plans to submit its Fort Riley CDMP for Department of Defense and Congressional approval in about six months.

PMH will receive the Soldiers' monthly basic allowance for housing as rent from families who choose to live in the homes on the post.

PMH is an operating division of Picerne Real Estate Group, a family-owned company headquartered in Warwick, R.I.

Picerne has created quality housing and commercial properties throughout the United States and Puerto Rico since 1925.

The company has more than 1,200 employees nationwide and owns and manages more than 35,000 homes across the country, including more than 12,500 military homes at Fort Meade, Fort Bragg and Fort Polk.

PMH expects to take over all 1,516 on-post homes at Fort Rucker in the spring of 2006.

With the addition of about 3,000 homes at Fort Riley, PMH will have more than 17,000 military family homes under management for the next 50 years.

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Armor company hits range for Table VIII

Deployed tanker crews maintain weapon proficiency with training mission near Baghdad

By Kevin Bromley

3rd Bde., 1st Armored Div.



TAJI, Iraq — The high-pitched whine of turbine engines and the thunderous report of the M1 Abrams tanks' 120mm main guns echoed across the vast barren desert range south of Baghdad recently.

All the noise came from tankers of Company C, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, as they tested their crew proficiency and gunnery at Butler Range.

Butler Range was established by Coalition Forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom to allow U.S. Forces to maintain weapons system proficiency during deployment.

"Fire!" Sgt. 1st Class John Konken's voice crackled over the radio in the range observation tower.

"On the way," yelled his gunner.

A flash and chest-rattling boom punctuated the crew's exuberance.

The Fort Riley deployed tank crews qualified with new firing tables designed to accurately reflect the types of engagements they encounter while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The new qualification table adds small arms engagements that we wouldn't use previously," explained Capt. Benjamin Garner, the battalion's liaison officer.

The M1s raced from firing point to firing point up and down range, their tracks clattering over

the hard earth.

"I enjoyed it ... If we're patrolling, it's slower. This helps us learn to listen to the tank commander and keep us on the road," said Spc. Darryl Leija, a driver for Co. C's 3rd Platoon.

The old qualification tables focused primarily on using the M1's 120mm main gun. The new table is designed to use the tank as a complete weapons system, Konken implied.

"When you're running the roads in Iraq, shooting at a car, you'd more than likely use the machine gun not the 120mm main gun," said Konken, platoon sergeant for the 3rd Platoon.

"The new Tank Table VIII ... emphasizes a lot more troop engagement than the previous tables," Konken said.

Tanker crews are required to qualify twice per year and the requirements to qualify are very stringent. The entire crew is graded on reaction times, execution of their fire commands and hitting the target.

"They're graded on each engagement, and they can earn up to 100 points for each one," said Co. C's Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Valdez, who supervised the scoring team.

The entire qualification table



A tank crew of Co. C, 1st Bn., 13th Armor, engages a target with its 120 mm main gun. Co. C tank crews recently fired for semi-annual qualification at the Butler Range in Iraq. 3rd Bde./Bromley

consists of 10 engagements, and an excellent crew could earn a perfect score of 1,000 points," he said.

Each crew must score a minimum of 700 points to qualify and each crew must pass at least seven

of the 10 engagements with a score of 70 or more points.

However, completing seven engagements does not guarantee that a crew will receive a passing score.

"Each engagement can have up

to four targets, the crews must execute their fire commands and complete the engagements within the time allotted or they don't pass the engagement," Valdez said.

First Bn., 13th Armor, was the first battalion to use Butler Range

during the first rotation for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This range has improved 500 percent since the last time we were here. ... It's as good as any range we've fired on before," Valdez said.

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Commentary

Friday, May 13, 2005

Fort Riley Post

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Riley Roundtable

This week's question:
How do you support the Fort Riley community?



"I support the community by shopping at the commissary and the Post Exchange. I also go to school functions."

Amy Bemis
Military spouse



"I am helping three sixth-graders with their homework after school."

Isabella Berkly
Cook
Fort Riley Elementary School



"I support military children at work. When I want to do recreation, I do it on post, if I can."

Suzie Haddix
Administrative assistant
Child Development Center



"I just try to be nice to everybody, even when they aren't so nice to me."

Juan Montes
Clerk
Fort Riley Continental Laundry



"I help with the FRG (Family Readiness Group) in my unit. We have events for the spouses and give the children something to do during the events."

Apakishia Webster
Military spouse

Next week's question:

Have you known anyone who seemed greatly changed or suffered a lot of post-Iraq stress? How were they different? How were they able to cope with that stress?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.



By Larry D. Caldwell
Senior EO Advisor

The Fort Riley Equal Opportunity Office will host an Asian Pacific heritage observance at 11:45 a.m. May 19 at Riley's Conference Center. The observance will include displays, Asian/Pacific dances and food sampling. In June 1977, House Resolution 540 was introduced. The resolution called for the president to proclaim the first week of May as Asian Pacific Heritage Week. In October 1978,

President Jimmie Carter signed Joint Resolution 72, officially declaring the first week in May as Asian Pacific Heritage week. Twelve years later, in May 1990, the first President George Bush signed a proclamation expanding the weeklong celebration to an entire month.

Americans of Asian-Pacific descent, more than 10 million strong, are among the fastest growing demographic groups in the United States today. During the past decade, the Asian-Pacific American community more than doubled in size, and this rapid growth is expected to continue.

About 20 different countries share an Asian or Pacific Island heritage, including Burma, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Afghanistan, India, Iran, Pakistan, Samoa, the Philippines and Hawaii.

This year's Asian Pacific heritage theme is "Liberty and Freedom for All."

Please join us May 19 as we celebrate Asian Pacific heritage. This free observance is open to the public.

For more information, call the EO office at 239-3379.

Equal Opportunity

Celebration to honor cultural differences

From personal experience

Good fortune leaves skid marks on road

By Jonathan M. Stiffler
Army News Service

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — I had just returned from my first deployment to Kuwait, where I spent almost the entire deployment dreaming of the motorcycle I wanted.

When I got home, I quickly started shopping for a bike. I soon found just the one I wanted. I also purchased a jacket, helmet and gloves — all of which were top-of-the-line.

I watched the motorcycle being uncrated and the engine started for the first time. It was like watching something being born. Unfortunately, I'd never ridden a motorcycle, let alone one that weighed more than 300 pounds. My best friend had to put the first miles on the Suzuki to get it home.

Shortly after I got the bike, I practiced riding it in a parking lot and on some local roads. I also went and got my permit and motorcycle license. I told my

chain of command I'd purchased the bike and was looking forward to riding it that summer. They told me to look at the post regulations and Army policies on motorcycle riding and make sure I abided by them.

I soon found out that I lacked the required Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Rider Course. I was disappointed because it would be a month before I could get the course and meet the requirements to ride. However, after taking the course I felt much more confident in my abilities to maneuver and control the bike. Moreover, I knew how to stop the bike quickly.

As the months went by, I really enjoyed riding my bike. On a Friday I'll never forget, my commander and first sergeant gave a safety briefing. They always included motorcycle safety in their weekly briefing, and I always laughed because I was the only motorcycle rider in the unit. I'd ridden my bike to the post that day and was getting ready to leave when my commander came

up and said, "Ride safe!" I laughed, and told him I would.

It was 37 miles from the post to where I lived. The dry, hot weather was pure biker bliss. I was about 15 minutes from post, riding on Interstate 5 near the Tacoma Dome area. It's an area of I-5 where you have to be really careful because there's a curve you can't see around.

I was going about 75 mph to keep up with the traffic. I started into the curve and looked as far ahead as I could, just as I'd been taught in the safety course. What I saw shocked me. The traffic ahead had gone from 75 mph to a complete stop!

I had about 300 yards between myself and a Chevy Cavalier. My mind was racing as I searched for a way out of the mess, but the traffic didn't leave me many choices. Then I saw the outside emergency lane, which didn't look much wider than my bike. I dove into the lane, barely missing the Cavalier and passing 11 vehicles before I got the Suzuki stopped.

I'd just gotten the fastest — and most memorable — lesson of my short motorcycle riding career. I learned to always ride carefully and responsibly and be extra alert when approaching areas where my vision is blocked. I also realized I needed better braking skills, so I went out and practiced several high-speed stops.

That day I'd almost done a high side off my bike, and the feeling of the front wheel locking up is one no biker ever forgets. I also learned I always need to be planning a safe escape route should I have to avoid a problem on the highway.

That day should have been like any other — but it wasn't. Some people would say I was lucky, but that's not the case. It wasn't so much that I was lucky as I was fortunate. I was fortunate I'd received the MSF training I needed to help me in an emergency.

Sp. Jonathan Stiffler serves with the 551st Medical Logistics Company at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Letter to editor

Son writes parents about fallen Soldier

My son, Pfc. Philip R. Zamora IV, is currently serving in Taji, Iraq, with the 70th Engineer. He was one of the first to reach (1st Sgt. (Timmy) Millsap and the other Soldiers injured by a roadside explosive while on a mission.

My son had called us after this incident and had expressed his deep sympathy and concern for his comrades and even more for the loss of his Sgt. Millsap.

Philip said he had met Sgt. Millsap this past Thanksgiving Day, and said that he was a really good guy who took care of his Soldiers and made sure that the Soldiers around him all had a place to spend the holidays.

He also said Sgt. Millsap was a real decent guy who took care of business, but knew how to treat people, and that he was going to miss him.

Philip said that he had been thinking about Sgt. Millsap's family, as he had met his wife and daughter prior to being deployed.

My wife, Mayra, and I pray for our son and all our Soldiers on a daily basis but have been thinking about those Soldiers injured (one whom we know has a last name of Davis), and even more so about the family of Sgt. Millsap. This incident took place on or around April 25.

If there is anyway that this can be done, we would like to be able to find out how those other Soldiers are doing, so we can relay this information to our concerned son. If possible, please forward this message to the family of Sgt. Millsap.

"Our son, Pfc. Philip R. Zamora IV, with the 70th Engineers has spoken many kind words of Sgt. Millsap and will miss him. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity given to our son. We send our deepest and sincere condolences to you. You have been, and will continue to be, in our thoughts and prayers."

Philip and Mayra Zamora
Fontana, Calif.

Grunt By Wayne Uhden



FORT RILEY POST

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What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

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Army News Service photo

Spc. Michael Dougherty and Sgt. Zachary Brooks of Co. A, 54th Eng. Bn., Germany work together to create a charge for an urban breach during a sub-event of the 20 K road march.

Best Sappers chosen

By Tremesha Ellis

Army News Service

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. — Two captains from Hawaii were named the 2005 Best Sapper after two-plus days of grueling events in the inaugural Best Sapper Competition hosted by the U.S. Army Engineer School and Fort Leonard Wood.

Capt. Anthony Barbina and William Boyd of the 65th Engineer Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, earned the most points in events that challenged their skills as Soldiers and engineers.

The April 26-28 event is modeled after the Best Ranger Competition and featured 22 two-man teams.

Competition included a modified physical fitness test, identifying threat mines, constructing a poncho raft and swimming across a pond, navigating by day and night, assembling and firing numerous weapons, tying knots, assembling various breaching charges, taking a demolitions test, throwing hand grenades, running nine miles and completing road marches.

"This was a grueling and technically challenging competition," said Brig. Gen. William McCoy, U.S. Army Engineer School assistant commandant, when awards were presented April 28 at Pershing Community Center. "I think

we got this right."

Day one started with a modified physical fitness test that had Soldiers doing push-ups, sit-ups and pull-ups and running two and six-tenths miles run on the engineer trail.

The competitors then faced a day of events that pushed them to their physical and mental limits. Challenges included two five-mile marches, mine identification, poncho raft construction and 310-yard swim, a physical endurance course and obstacle course and an additional 20-kilometer foot march.

The foot march included urban breach, nine-line medical evacuation and weapons pile tasks along the way.

Even the Best Sapper team found the march difficult.

"The 20K was the most challenging because we'd already done so much that day," Boyd said. "We'd come almost nine miles and completed the obstacle and physical endurance courses."

"I stayed motivated by looking over to my Sapper buddy," he said. "I knew he wanted to win as badly as I did."

By the end of the day, the field of Best Sapper contenders was narrowed to 15 teams.

The next morning, the engineers moved by foot to the grenade range. They also fired the M-16A2 rifle, M-249 squad automatic weapon and M-9 semi-automatic pistol and completed a

knot-tying examination.

On day three, the engineers ran nine miles, carrying a litter and dummy, ammunition boxes and water containers along the way.

McCoy said the competition is relevant to the engineer's duties in modern warfare.

"Sappers find themselves in the strangest places in combat," he said. "They breach and lead the way, perform infantry duties and restore the area once the battle is won. This test demonstrates your ability to perform those missions on the battlefield."

Barbina and Boyd were awarded Army Commendation Medals, engraved knives, tactical flashlights and a paid trip to Orlando, Fla., to attend the Engineer Conference this fall.

The second place team was 1st Lt. Ryan Fahy and Sgt. Brian Walker of the 307th Eng. Bn., Fort Bragg, N.C. The third place team was Staff Sgts. Curtis Cox and Jeffrey Tuthill of the 27th Eng. Bn., Fort Bragg, N.C.

Spc. Tremesha Ellis writes for the *Guidon* newspaper at Fort Leonard Wood.

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DoD official outlines new employee system

By Gerry J. Gilmore

AFPS

WASHINGTON — Defense Department civilians will soon be paid for productivity rather than longevity, while in future years servicemembers may be required to serve longer tours of duty and spend more time in the military before becoming eligible for retirement.

These initiatives are part of DoD efforts to transform itself into a more agile and efficient organization for the 21st century, David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, noted during an interview with the Pentagon Channel for its documentary "Facing the Future."

In fact, Chu noted, the new National Security Personnel System slated for partial implementation in July will affect about 300,000 of the department's 700,000 civilian employees. Remaining DoD civilian employees are slated to move into the new system starting around January 2007.

Current civilian pay scales, Chu explained, are based on how "long you've been around." He said polls show the younger workers are seeking to move into the new system starting around January 2007.

Performance for pay "is not an untied principle" at DoD, Chu pointed out, noting several pay-for-performance pilot programs have been tested through the years.

"They want to join an organization where if you do more, you are rewarded," he pointed out.

Performance for pay "is not an untied principle" at DoD, Chu pointed out, noting several pay-for-performance pilot programs have been tested through the years.

The NSPS also gives managers the tools to hire new employees more quickly and more means to discipline underperformers.

Such change, Chu acknowledged, is likely to be "upsetting" among a workforce accustomed to the older personnel system.

Managers who will supervise workers under the NSPS, he noted, will "require training and

preparation in order for them to be effective."

Chu asked DoD employees to be patient as NSPS is implemented, noting studies of pay-for-performance pilot programs have shown most workers like the new system.

After NSPS has been fully implemented "you will have a much happier work force," Chu predicted.

He pointed out that old civil service rules hamstring supervisors and often caused military members to be employed for tasks that could be accomplished by civilian employees.

Implementation adds flexibility

Implementation of NSPS, Chu noted, will allow more flexible use of civilian employees, while freeing up military members to perform other important duties.

Another initiative that's under study, Chu said, involves establishing longer duty tours for servicemembers, especially senior officers. He noted that some military leaders serve in their posts for too short a time.

"So, they never have enough tenure to make transformational changes, to see them through to success," Chu pointed out, noting many senior officer tours of duty span just 18 to 24 months.

Years of military service may increase

Another personnel change under consideration is increasing the years of service military members need to retire. Today's 20-year minimum required for military retirement, he said, "has become something of an 'automatic' event" that began after World War II.

The 20-year retirement, Chu said, was established in conjunction with an "up-or-out" policy recommended by then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall that was designed to prune veteran servicemembers

who'd become ineffective partly due to increased age.

But today's servicemembers in their 40s and 50s are "physically fit," he pointed out, and are "able to do many of the things that are necessary to do" in the military environment.

Consequently, Chu maintained, "we need to have a system that allows them to serve ... on active service longer." And that envisioned change, Chu pointed out, "is one of the most difficult transformational challenges" DoD faces.

"We are really at (the) early stages in making this shift," he explained. "Some of it requires legislative changes, which we have not yet convinced the Congress to make."

Addressing the amount of military pay required to attract and retain quality servicemembers in the future, Chu emphasized, "If we don't keep up a vigorous, upfront compensation package, we will not succeed in the long term."

Achieving transformation, Chu pointed out, requires having "a sharp and appropriate set of tools in your toolkit" and a willingness to adapt new methods of doing military business.

For example, the asymmetrical nature of the war against terrorism, he noted, has made U.S. military field hospitals likely enemy targets.

Consequently, he said, it's now routine for servicemembers who've been severely wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq to be medically stabilized in local field hospitals and then air-evacuated to "safe havens" in Germany or the United States for further treatment.

This transformational change, Chu observed, contrasts from past practices, where injured troops most often received medical care at facilities established in or near war zones.

He credited the field hospitals "for being able to stabilize the patients" and the Air Force for providing the needed "air bridge" support.





Army photo

Soldiers fire the new M-777A1 lightweight howitzer during operational testing.

Military to purchase lightweight howitzers

By Martin Kane

Army News Service

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J.

A joint-service program office at Picatinny Arsenal has completed development and is managing the purchase of 589 new lightweight 155mm howitzers for the Army and Marine Corps.

An \$843 million four-year contract has been awarded to BAE Systems of Barrow-in-Furness in the United Kingdom to manufacture the weapons and 94 digital fire control retrofit kits, said Jim Shields, deputy program manager for the lightweight 155mm howitzer program.

Shields said the howitzer is known as the M-777A1 in the services' inventories.

"The M-777A1 will replace all of the corps' current M-198 towed howitzers and will be the artillery system for the Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Teams," he said.

The M-777A1 is 7,000 pounds lighter than the weapon it replaces. It is the first ground combat system to make extensive use of titanium in its major structures, reducing weight.

The weight reduction improves transportability and mobility without impacting range or accuracy, Shields said, adding that the system is compatible with the entire family of 155mm ammunition.

The new howitzer is transportable by the Marine Corps' MV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft and two can fit on the C-130.

BAE Systems is manufacturing 94 howitzers under a low-rate initial production contract, Shields said.

The first 94 weapon systems will be equipped with an optical fire control system that will be upgraded to incorporate digital fire control under the full production contract, he said.

All 495 full-production units will be manufactured with digital fire control systems also known as towed artillery digitization, or TAD.

The 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, located at Twenty-nine Palms, Calif., will be the first unit fully equipped with the weapon.

Shields said that BAE Systems facility in Hattiesburg, Miss., is assembling the howitzer.

"Approximately 80 percent of the howitzer's components are built in the United States," Shields said. "We utilize a supply chain that spreads across 10 states, the United Kingdom, Canada and Italy."

The Army's Watervliet Arsenal in New York manufactures the cannon assembly, he said.

The howitzer system underwent a successful joint-service operational test during October 2004 at Twentynine Palms, Shields said. During the four-

week test, nearly 12,000 artillery rounds were fired by four M-777A1s.

The system demonstrated high reliability, met or exceeded all its operational requirements, and a team of independent evaluators determined the M-777A1 was operationally suitable and effective.

The M-777A1 will be capable of firing the Army's Excalibur precision-guided projectile that is also under development at Picatinny Arsenal.

Excalibur will be fired out to a range of 40 kilometers from the M-777A1, and because of its GPS and inertial navigation guidance, will deliver precision-strike capability (less than 10 meters circular error of probability) at all ranges.

Excalibur is scheduled to be fielded in late 2006 when the Army starts taking delivery of its first M-777A1s.

Martin Kane works for ARDEC Public Affairs.

Deployments require vaccination emphasis

By Donna Miles

AFPS

Frequent, short-notice deployments around the world demand that the military step up its emphasis on keeping the force vaccinated for contingencies it may face, according to the Defense Department's deputy director for the Military Vaccine Agency.

The expeditionary nature of the force requires that DoD plan ahead to provide its members the best possible protection against disease and illness when they deploy, Army Col. John Grabenstein said during an April 14 interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

"Vaccinations have always been about planning ahead," Grabenstein said. "We try to anticipate what is going to happen at the other end of that plane flight to the deployment area."

As a result, he said, DoD is con-

ducting more surveillance about infections and disease that troops need to be protected against, Federal Drug Administration-approved vaccines to counter them, and Centers for Disease Control guidelines for administering these vaccines.

DoD is also making a greater effort to ensure servicemembers' shot records are up-to-date. This way, when a short-notice deployment occurs, the affected troops need only those shots specific to their deployment area, not "a big, long laundry list of vaccines," Grabenstein said.

This effort includes more screening of Reserve and Guard troops, checking their immunizations records each fall when they receive their flu shots to ensure they're current. Grabenstein said reserve component troops generally require more shots than their active component counterparts when preparing for deployments.

When entering the military, all

troops receive a basic list of immunizations: meningococcal; tetanus and diphtheria; measles, mumps and rubella; and poliovirus. Other vaccines are frequently prescribed for travel to specific international locations or for certain occupations, Grabenstein said.

Other vaccines protect against bioweapons such as anthrax and smallpox. The Defense Department put its anthrax vaccination program on hold last fall pending legal challenges, but supports findings that the vaccine is safe and effective.

Grabenstein said mandatory immunizations for military protect the fighting force and keep it fighting, much as body armor does.

Since the first vaccine, against smallpox, was introduced in the late 1700s, he said, no other medical technology has surpassed immunization in protecting people against disease. "It's the biggest success story in all of medicine," he said.

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MPs get teary-eyed in gas chamber training

By James Tamez

19th PAD

The Soldiers stood in line impatiently, waiting for the training they knew would drive them to

tears.

The 300th Military Police Company Soldiers queued up May 3 for their annual Nuclear, Biological, Chemical training, which included the tearful trip through the CS gas chamber at Fort Riley.

CS gas is a non-lethal gas that is used for crowd dispersal. It irritates the eyes and skin and makes it difficult to breathe.

"Right now, our Soldiers are going through the NBC chamber," said 2nd Lt. Melissa Stewart, sec-

ond platoon leader. "They do some exercises, completely unmask and (recite their) Social Security Number and then exit the chamber. They are also going through different NBC training stations that we have set up."

Pfc. Brandon Roque said the training is good, even though the CS chamber is far from an enjoyable experience.

"It's really not that fun," Roque said. "We went in with our masks and did about 25 side straddle hops. We could breathe fine and there weren't any problems. Then we lined up, took our masks off and walked around the chamber. We had to state our name, rank and Social Security Number before they let us out the door. You start coughing, your eyes start watering and it becomes hard to breathe."

Staff Sgt. James Henning, NBC noncommissioned officer for the 300th MP Co., said it is important for Soldiers to have that confidence in their NBC equipment, which is a big part of this training. During the side straddle hops, Soldiers realize their masks remain secured with all the jerky movement.

The annual training ensures that the 300th MPs meet Army standards. However, an ulterior training motive exists.

"This training is important," Stewart said. "If the Soldiers expe-

rience [an NBC attack] in an actual combat environment, they will already have confidence in their equipment and know that it will save their lives."

The value of this training is not lost on the Soldiers. They realize that combat skills must be honed to a keen edge.

"On the battlefield, oftentimes you find yourself reacting (instinctively) to situations," Henning said. "You don't have time to think about what you are supposed to do, you just do it. Soldiers need to be able to react quickly to an NBC environment and get their MOPP suits on quickly and have the confidence of knowing that it is going to work."

Keeping their combat skills up to par is important, but so is familiarity with their equipment, one MP explained.

"At first, I had a little bit of a leak in my mask, but I figured out what the problem was and fixed it pretty quickly," said Pfc. Michael Cool. "This is why this training is so important. I know that my equipment works, and I will be able to rely on it on the battlefield."

Stewart said the CS chamber was only the first part of the NBC training. The rest of the training included individual decontamination, reacting to an NBC attack, Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear exchange, use of the



19th PAD/Tamez

Staff Sgt. Jason Garrison, 4th Plt., 300th MP Co., puts on his protective mask during NBC training May 3.

M256 Chemical Agent Detector Kit and unmasking procedures.

Each station provided useful and necessary information. Most importantly, it provides Soldiers with the knowledge necessary to survive in the event of an NBC attack, Roque pointed out.

"The harsh reality is that people do use this stuff," Roque said. "We have to know how to use our equipment and to protect ourselves so that we can continue the good fight."



19th PAD/Tamez

Soldiers from the 300th MP Co. do side straddle hops to increase their heart rates in the CS gas chamber during NBC training.

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POST SERVICE DIRECTORY



The M-16, kevlar, dog tags and combat boots of Spc. David Rice, along with his picture, sit at the front of the altar at Morris Hill Chapel May 3.

Memorial

continued from page 1

only Soldier who smiled for the portraits taken before he went to Iraq.

"What an infectious smile and personality! It is not always common to have so many different people remember an individual in almost the exact same manner, especially across the spectrum of commanders to fellow Soldiers," she said.

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By Thomas Moyer
Army News Service

HONEOYE FALLS, N.Y. — The Army accepted delivery of the world's first fuel-cell-powered military truck April 1 at the General Motors Corp. research facility outside Rochester, N.Y.

Marking the occasion were Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) and Brig. Gen. Roger Nadeau, commanding general of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

A modified Chevrolet Silverado, the GMT 800, is equipped with two 94-kilowatt fuel-cell stacks, capable of generating 188 kilowatts and 317 foot-pounds of torque, roughly the same torque generated by GM's 5.3 liter V-8 engine.

Despite weighing 7,500 pounds, the GMT 800 accelerates similarly to the V-8 powered production truck but produces no tailpipe emissions. Fuel cells chemically convert hydrogen into electricity and water. Three 10,000-pound-per-square-inch compressed hydrogen storage tanks provide a driving range of 125 miles.

"The relationship between the

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U.S. government and private industry is a tremendous win-win scenario, because together this technology will come in better and faster and will have an incredible impact on us in our civilian lives. And I know what it will do to our U.S. military forces," Nadeau said.

"My excitement is far beyond what we're about to do with this technology and well into what it's going to do for us as we continue to transform the U.S. Army," he said.

The U.S. Army will evaluate the experimental truck until July 2006 at Fort Belvoir, Va. The vehicle will serve in a non-tactical mode while under evaluation and will not be used in ongoing operations.

The Army plans rigorous testing in different climates and locations around the United States to assess performance and give first-hand experience with hydrogen and fuel cells, officials said.

Thomas Moyer serves with RDECOM Public Communications.

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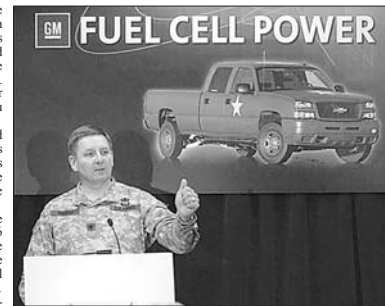
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GM/Shulte

Brig. Gen. Roger Nadeau speaks to the benefits of hydrogen fuel cell technology at an event marking General Motors' delivery of the U.S. Army's first hydrogen fuel cell-powered pickup April 1 at the General Motors research facility outside of Rochester, N.Y. The U.S. Army will perform rigorous testing in different climates and locations around the U.S. to assess performance and give the military first-hand experience with hydrogen and fuel cells.



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Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, May 13, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

Community news briefly

Riley's to host retro dance

Remember the '70s? Well, put your bell-bottoms on and make sure your hair is ironed straight. Prefer the '80s? Then slide into your Calvins and leg warmers and make sure you have big hair. Riley's Conference Center is hosting a Retro Flashback Dance from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. May 20. For \$5 dancers will get to boogie oogie oogie the night away as a DJ spins the tunes. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served and a cash bar will be open throughout the event. This swinging time is open to everyone 18 and older. For more information, call Riley's Conference Center at 784-1000.

Crafts center classes posted

May 14 - 2 to 4 p.m., introduction to black and white photography
May 15 - 2 to 4 p.m., introduction to black and white photography
May 15 - 1 to 4:30 p.m., scrapbooking get-together
May 16 - 7 p.m., crochet, knitting & cross stitch
May 16 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., wood safety class
May 17 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., ceramic mold pouring
May 17 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., wood class - picnic table
May 18 - 6:30-8:30 p.m., introduction to stained glass
 For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

BOSS members set activities

May 18 - 3:30 p.m., meeting at lodging
May 21 - 8 a.m., shopping trip to the Plaza in Kansas City. Board a bus at ITR. Enjoy everything from specialty shops to gourmet restaurants. Travel is free. Sign up at ITR. Space is limited, so reservations are on a first come, first served basis.
June 3-5 - Colorado white water rafting trip. Spend two days rafting and camping in Colorado. The \$120 trip fee includes campsite, tent rental, rafting, food and transportation to and from Colorado. Bring your own sleeping gear. Sign up by May 23 at ITR.
June 16-19 - Universal Studios trip. The \$250 trip price includes airfare, three nights in a hotel, airport transfers and transportation and admission to Universal Studios. The trip price is subject to change after May 23.

Bands sought for big battle

The Fort Riley BOSS Battle of the Bands needs bands to compete July 2 at Heritage Park in Junction City. Bands must send recorded demos by June 10 to Fort Riley BOSS, 253 Cameron Avenue, Fort Riley, KS 66442.

Seven entries will be selected to compete for \$1,000 cash. Bands must consist of three or more members. No pre-recorded instruments allowed in the competition.

For more information, call (785) 239-8147.

Stay in Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Survey will indicate leisure needs

By CFSC Marketing
Special to the Post

To better provide the Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs that community members want, Fort Riley is participating in the Army-wide 2005 MWR Leisure Needs Survey.

The survey will obtain valuable information about customer leisure time activities, and use and satisfaction with MWR facilities and programs. The Leisure Needs Survey is a key source of information for MWR managers, local commanders and senior Army leadership. Survey data is used in

program planning and decision-making to improve the MWR activities that are important to quality of life in the community.

Usually conducted every three years, the Leisure Needs Survey is customized for each participating installation. This year's survey will be fielded at 92 installa-

tions, with more than 260,000 surveys distributed Army-wide to active duty Soldiers, spouses, civilian employees and military retirees.

Soldiers and civilian employees selected through random sampling distribution will receive a survey through their unit or work-

place. The survey will be mailed directly to spouses and military retirees.

Survey respondents will have the option to take the MWR Leisure Needs Survey in the traditional paper survey format or

See Survey, Page 13

'Show and Tell'



Post/Baker

Sgt. Larry Collins of 1st Maintenance Company, 541st Maintenance Battalion, and his family attend Ware Elementary School's Year in Review May 3, when the school faculty and staff showed parents what children learned throughout the year with creative displays and games.

Parents review school, student programs, work

By Jay Baker
Public affairs intern

Mothers and fathers of more than 600 students crowded the halls and playgrounds May 3 for Ware Elementary School's 12th annual Schools in Review.

The event provides an open house and report card to parents and anyone else who's interested in the children's and school's progress and activities, said Principal Deb Gustafson.

"Every school in the district has to share information with parents this week. We open our doors to parents all the time, but this is an organized event the state requires," Gustafson said.

"It is an open house with a theme and a purpose. The theme is celebrating differences in culture," she said. The student population at Ware contains about 27 different nationalities, she said.

In the cafeteria, children and guests tasted foods from various cultures, including Chinese, Italian, American and Korean.

Outside, the parents watched their children learn and play games popular with the children in different cultures. The children played lacrosse, Brazilian tag and Main Karet Gelang, a game in which players try to keep a wad of rubber bands (or a small ball) in the air by kicking among themselves.

See Review, Page 13



Post/Baker

Third-grader Haley Comber tests out a circuit and learns a little about electricity during the fourth-graders' science display during the school's Year in Review May 3.

Marriage and Military Life

Homecoming might be better without in-laws

By Gene-Thomas Gomulka
Retired Navy chaplain

Dear Gene-Thomas,

My husband is scheduled to return soon from Iraq and my mother-in-law insists on being present for the reunion. Unlike prior deployments, my husband and I would like this homecoming to be just between us and our daughter. How do we get this across without hurting her feelings?

— Sheri

Dear Sheri,

After consulting a number of

military wives and moms, including moms who themselves were military wives, I discovered that while many wives prefer private homecoming reunions, others welcome the presence of in-laws and even their own parents who may feel very close to their son-in-law. This often is determined by how close a military couple are to their parents and in-laws, as well as how well things are going in their own relationship.

People who were never military spouses may not appreciate how intimate homecomings are for some military couples, particu-

About the author

Gene-Thomas Gomulka is a retired Navy chaplain and author of "The Survival Guide for Marriage in the Military," available at www.plaintec.net

Have a question? Write Gene-Thomas at letters@plaintec.net



larly after long deployments in a combat environment where servicemembers' lives may daily be threatened.

In this particular case, particularly when you and your husband

would prefer not to have a homecoming on the scale of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," your husband should communicate with his mom how very much you both are looking forward to see-

ing her, but only after you have had some quality time together. The fact that she was present at previous homecomings leads me to question if she may have hung around too long instead of giving your husband a "welcome home" hug and a kiss, and then left you alone to reconnect.

Military couples, like all couples, need the support of family and friends in their lives. Because of our home and work schedules, we have to establish certain priorities as to how we divide up our time amongst our

See Military Life, Page 13





Middle school scholars listed

FRMS

Fort Riley Middle School officials have announced its Principal's Honor Roll and Troopers Honor Roll students for the fifth six weeks.

Principal's Honor Roll Students must attain at least a 3.5 grade point average with no C's.

Trooper Honor Roll students must attain a grade point average of 3.0 to 3.49 and may have one C.

Principal's Honor Roll

Sixth Grade

Jordan Alexander
Paige Archer
Maya Arredondo
Jessica Bonet
Valazquez
Rebecca Brinkley
Sieclinda Brooks
Shabazz Brumfield
Connor Cabrey
Jamison Carmichael
Tyler Corey
Samantha Courts
Allyssa Crowell
Rebecca Dirks
Mitchell Emerson
Elizabeth Grammel
Erin Gyuran
Steven Harrison
Brendan Higginbot-
tom
Wesley Hill
Shai Holubeck
Connor Howard
Zachary Jones
Natalie Kelley
McKenna Kelly
Hillary Konken
Leah Kundi
Melissa Leturgez
Cinday Malone
Luis Merencio
Amanda Mcelroy
Graciela Mejia
Julie Miller
Orel Moram
Kiara Ocasio
Brooke Powers
Dominika Pullman
Michela Rodriguez-
Vedel

Seventh Grade

Ashley Rogers-Flo
Jordan Rucker
Zachary Sankey
Samantha Satterlee
Valerie Serna
Kaitlin Smart
Dylan Soper
Hanna Young Sul
Ashley Thomas
Samantha Veasy
Stephanie Wacker
Nikala Walter
Jessica Wentworth
Miguel Adams
Danielle Adams
Lauren Apodaca
Tyler Barnes
Justin Baubitz
Taylor Berry
Alexander Bertucci
Regis Bigness
Zachary Birchmeier
Laura Buccowski
Bria Iyana Dansby
Steven Delio
Jacklyne Dirks
Jalissa Doughty
Michaela Dycus
Casey Elliott
Zachary Ferguson
Nicole Fort
Jeffrey Graham
Shannon Grammel
Tara Haag
Jerrad Hoferman
Taylor Johnson
Angela Joyner
Leanna Ludington
Kalea Maio
Kawehilani Maio
Jenna McArthur
Keith Meiners
Thomas Miskevish
Alexa Pappal
Esteban Perez
Samuel Quintas
Michelle Savitski
Jasmine Smiley
Johnisha Smith
Janice Soledad
Kayla Soper
Johathan Spurlock
Brent Stroh
Jason Swisher
Andrew (A C) Taylor
Cassandra Townsend
Christina Valentin
Armonia Walker
Brandi Washington
Christina Westerman
Andrew Winger
Jamie Zwiggzins

Eighth Grade

Olivia Alvarado
Kimerly Arps
Andrew Birchmeier
Lauren Bradley
Bryana Briggs

Ashley Brockman
Nancy Brokmeier
Jeremiah Browning
Barresha Bush
Deanna Cabrey
Catherine Carmichael
Jennifer Cerna
Daiea-Lee Marie
Coates
Barbara Commons
Taylor Dibasio
Devin Dickens
Sean Dixon
Angelique Foye
Christina Gutierrez
Kanesha Hamilton
Miranda Hinkley
David Hyde
Sara Illescas
Bianca Jackson
Heather Leturgez
Stanley Mathews II
Ashley McCabe
Andrew Michael
Stephanie Miller
Larry Mitchell
Joshua Montgomery
Ashleigh Moody
Natalie Niles
Enliissa Ortiz
Brittney Paige
Keturah Palmer
Timothy Peterson
Angela Price
Rocky Raggegg
Yolanda Reid
Neisha Rivera
Marina Rodriguez
Rebecca Shade
Kyle Shook
Grace Simpson
Stephanie Socorro
Brandi Stringer
Krista Taylor
Gabrielle Thomas
Danny VanTassel
Brennan Vazquez
Cetrina Walker
Cody Waterman
Nicholas Woodcock

Troopers' Honor Roll

Sixth Grade

Tori Adams
Jonathan Alvarez
John Balch
Michael Beck
Dylan Bender
Jorgan Berse
Megan Black
Mareka Branch
Kaitlyn Browning
Megan Clapp
Emmanuel Cockrell
Alan Coleman
Tyler Croston
Catie Dearing
Patrick Fallely
Dominique Forehand
Tyler Freeman
Tyler Gorton
Leah Griggs
Randall Hill
Brandon Hobbie
Roddick Hopson
Natalie Kundi
Brittany Lavalaur
Jalissa Lethers
Joshua Mathews
Torreyqua McDonald
Kasha McDougald
Alexis Miskevish
Paricia Nauta
Courtney Paige
Iam Palmer
Cody Parnely
Micke Reed Jr
Andrew Reinhardt
Kristyn Schmidt
Neil Simpson
Damon Wilkerson

Seventh Grade

Jacoby Adams
Meshawn Armstrong
Katherine Balsamo
Jeremy Beale
Yamessha Bowie
Andrew Coleman
Andrew Darland
Charles Foote
Kylie Gray
Shannon Griffith
Dana Haywood
Samantha Hernandez
Brittany Hitchcock
Hollis, Amanda
Brittini Knapp
Madeline Kundi
Natalya McCarroll
Matthew Miller
Rachel Nelson
Faith Olson
Lysander Ortiz
Karla Pagan
Stephanie Rivera
Remington Steele
Troy Susee
Deborah Ybarra

Eighth Grade

Dominique Brooks
Lorene Crackley
Autumn Cuddy
Sarah Hill
Cameron Holland
Jaukia Jackson
Bria Jimenez
Joshua Jones
Jerry Jordan
Kyle Kelley
Zachary Mann

Students try hand at being newspaper reporters



Members of Kim Osenga's final period lab at Fort Riley Middle School smile after completing a seven-week project to report on school life and activities. Their stories are printed below and on page 13, as part of a newspaper project sponsored by the Fort Riley Post and Public Affairs Office. Participating in the project were (standing, from left) Derek Thrash, Devin Dickens, Lori Cackley, Shayla Lumanlan, Angela Hays-Riffel, Danny Vantassell, Sarah Hill and Jerry Jordan and (seated, from left) Laura Vician, Zach Mann, Grace Simpson and Kyle Shook.

Post/Heroman

Troopers vary sports play

Editor's note: The following sports roundup was compiled by Fort Riley Middle School students Danny Van Tassel, Derek Thrash, Zachary Mann, Sarah Hill, Jerry Jordan and Devin Dickens.

Staff report

Fort Riley Middle School spring sports offer athletes a variety of teams and events in which to compete.

One sport seldom associated with middle school programs is golf, but the Troopers support a team that were scheduled to compete in two tournaments this year.

The beginner golfers practiced to face Junction City in a tournament May 4 at Rolling Meadows Golf Course in Junction City.

The other tournament is scheduled for Custer Hill Golf Course on Fort Riley.

Coach Don Stevens said golf is a good middle school sport because he thinks it is fun for the kids who play. He also said that the team would do very good this year and beat Junction City in the tournament.

Coach Stevens practices with all the golfers at Custer Hill Golf Course from night after school until 4:45 p.m. They practice Monday through Thursday.

Stevens thinks that Friday is part of the weekend, and golfers never practice on weekends.

Golfers who are ready for the course go out and play, but golfers who still need practice stay on the driving range.

Track

Track is a more traditional middle school sport, and Fort Riley Middle School fields a boys' and a girls' team with competitors in each event.

Each athlete must practice his or her own events' skills, but all track athletes must train together at the beginning of the season.

Coach Vic Garcia said, "Practices early on in the season are geared toward establishing a conditioning foundation, so we run distance. As we progress through the season, we begin to separate workouts by event speciality."

Some track athletes perform differently at practice than at their track meets. Garcia said track is a very straightforward sport and athletes get out of it what they put into it. Working hard in practice means individual times, distances and heights will improve, he said.

As athletes improve, opportunities for scoring points or winning medals improve, too, he said.

The Troopers' track team started its season off well, but much of the team's success is due to the large coaching staff.

The team needs many helping hands because of the great number of track

events and the numerous participants on the teams.

Fort Riley Middle School has five coaches. Garcia and Coach Shannon Molt work with long distance runners and jumpers. Coach Terry Heina and Coach Stacey Cooke work with the sprinters. Coach Jean Johnson works with discus throwers and shot putters.

All five mentors said they are coaching because of their love of teaching and because all of them participated in track when they were children.

Tennis

A new tennis facility with three courts will make training a little easier for Trooper players in the future, but about 35 kids started the season practicing on one tennis court in the school's south gym. Practice later moved to the tennis courts by Long Gym.

Now the seventh- and eighth-graders play on the two courts by Long Gym and the three new courts right next to the middle school.

The number of players has dwindled to 22 because of players moving or not keeping grades up, Coach Mike Whaley said.

Tennis practice started March 28. Since then, the teams has been practicing 3:30 to 5:15 p.m. every Monday through Friday, if they're not playing.

Practice starts with a jog around the

court or gym, but most of practice time is spent on the courts, honing their skills and enduring the summer heat.

One of the Troopers' top tennis players is returning eighth-grader Barbara Commons.

Commons said she likes the game because it is intense and it gives her a chance to play against kids better than she is.

Commons said she also likes tennis because she plays individually even though she's part of a team.

Learning how to play is hard at first, she said, and learning how to serve is really hard.

But, Commons said Coaches Jill Volland and Mike Whaley are good and know what they are doing.

Whaley said he thought his players were somewhat in shape, but having 30-plus players and only three tennis courts to practice on made it hard to get them in good shape. So, he and Volland try to run players at every practice.

Whaley said the Troopers' first two tournaments this season were all right. They were better than last year's first two tournaments, he said.

Whaley said his toughest match in those two tournaments were against Washburn Rural. He said that Fort Riley did not bring their top eight players to those matches.

Even though they lost that tournament, the team played well, Whaley said.

Senate serves as student voice

Fundraisers help improve school with books, more

By Laura Vician

FRMS reporter

The Fort Riley Middle School student senate is a group made up of two teachers — Ms. Casey Ewy and Mrs. Beth Neitzel — and one representative from each Trooper Time class.

Trooper Time is like a lab period in which students can do reading, math and other work. Student Senate meets at 8 a.m. every Tuesday in Neitzel's classroom.

Members of the Student Senate arrange and conduct fundraisers, negotiate free seating at lunch and serve as a

voice with school administrators for members of the student body.

This year, Student Senate had some high goals to achieve and met most of them, One Senate member reported. The Student Senate didn't sell as many cookbooks as they wanted, selling only about 35.

The main reason for selling the cookbooks this year was to earn money to buy a digital camera for the school and to donate some extra money to the post chaplains offices. The cookbooks are still on sale for \$8 in Mrs. Neitzel's room.

One problem the Student Senate is having is not having enough students

getting involved with this activity. Student Senate members said they feel more eighth-graders and seventh-graders should be involved. The majority of those students have been in the school long enough that they can give the sixth-graders a good idea of what probably should be going on.

Another main reason the Student Senate needs and wants more students to get involved is so that the school can have good concession stands at home games, sponsorships for other schools and more student/faculty games and contests.

Neitzel once said, "Student Senate can be more fun if more students get involved."

Ms. Shelby Witte, the society's sponsor, is a huge help to the National Junior Honor Society. She works with the students, organizes the fundraisers and helps advertise the activities.

"I'm very proud of the work we've done," Witte said. "We are giving a donation of \$500 to the library. This is giving the opportunity for them to buy more books for the students to enjoy."

Incentive parties reward behavior

By Kyle Shook

FRMS reporter

Fort Riley Middle School's incentive party is for the whole school. The school gives students a drink and snack and some free time. However, students who have gotten into trouble cannot enjoy this activity.

Why do kids do the things they do that get them in trouble?

That's a question students in trouble should be asked when they don't get to enjoy the incentive party at the end of the six weeks grading period.

Students can improve how they act and be granted permission to go to the incentive party by reading and heeding the first pages in the student planner.

Classroom disruptions and minor playful interaction are the most common things students get in trouble for, a school official said. The faculty tries to punish students with the bare minimum for what they have done, the official added.





Choirs add musical note to education

By Shayla Lumanlan
FRMS reporter

Fort Riley Middle School has two choir groups – a seventh-grade chorus and an eighth-grade choir. Both groups together have about 65 students singing in them.

Four concerts are scheduled every year – two per semester. The most recent concert was May 12 in the school's North Gym. It started at 6 p.m. and ended at 7 p.m.

The two groups sang songs from different movies.

Ms. Carlita Peterson and Ms. Jill Volland teach the two groups. Peterson is the main teacher and Volland is the music aide.

Volland isn't in class all the time because she is going to school. She said she likes her job. "I enjoy it, but I'm looking forward to completing my licensure in education so I can be a music teacher," she said.

Editor's note: Longtime Fort Riley Middle School band director Victor Wong retires this year. The band performed in concert May 10 at Custer Hill Elementary School on past in what was billed as part of the sixth-grade band's "final world tour" with their director.

Fair promotes child wellness

By Lori Cackley
FRMS reporter

Students at Fort Riley Middle School skipped class April 20, with the teacher's permission. They left class to go to a wellness fair in the school's North and South gyms.

Every year, different community businesses and associations visit FRMS to teach the students about how their job can help with fitness and health.

Some of the activities available this year were embroidery, ceramics, 4-H Club, a climbing wall, golf and fitness, the Kansas State University Extension Service, the fire department and the military police.

One of the more life-affecting stations was the "see if you can walk drunk" activity. Students who tried it would put on a pair of goggles that made everything seem the way it would if they were drunk in real life.

The officers working this station said that it helps students really get to know what it's like to be drunk. It helps them learn about the effects of drug and alcohol abuse, and why they should be drug free.

Some of the students claimed the wellness fair was fun. Others said it was boring. But, most of them said they liked the "see if you can walk drunk" activity, the rock wall and the aerobic exercises.

21st Century program adds help with work

By Angela Hayes-Riffel
FRMS reporter

The 21st Century grant program is an after-school program at Fort Riley Middle School. It is an academic and activity program.

Students can participate in 21st Century only if a teacher recommends participation.

A recommendation means a teacher thinks the student needs help getting his or her homework done.

People in the 21st Century program meet after school four days a week from 3:20 to 4 p.m. to do

homework. Students then take a bus to the Fort Riley Teen Center until 6 p.m. On Friday, the students go to planned activities, such as bowling, roller-skating or swimming.

The 21st Century program runs off grant money given by the state and the school district. The money helps cover transportation, snacks and money to do planned activities.

FRMS counselor and 21st Century helper Marilyn Henke said this year's 21st Century program is better funded than last year's program.



CDC Photo/Vicki Ohmacht

Early start on learning

Dila Westbrooke (left) and Shane Towns Jr. study an interactive preschool program at the Child Development Center. The computer learning centers are part of an age-appropriate curriculum offered at the nationally accredited facility located on Warren Road. Full-time openings for children ages 3 to 5 will be available this summer. For more information, call 239-9935.

Review continued from page 11

Inside the crowded halls, children excitedly examined displays made by their fellow schoolmates.

Children in each grade and in special classes, such as music, created displays for the review.

The second-graders seemed fascinated by lighting a small

light bulb with a size D battery. Other children stopped to read Timothy Hawcroft's diorama demonstrating what he learned about caring for and riding a horse.

Sgt. Larry Collins of 1st Maintenance Company, 541st Maintenance Battalion, came to see how his children have progressed and what other children have done.

"I rarely get to come to school functions. Because this is the end of the year, it is important to see how far the kids have come," he said.

"I rarely get to come to school functions. Because this is the end of the year, it is important to see how far the kids have come," he said.

Military Life continued from page 11

spouses, children, parents, siblings and close friends.

If my wife is on the phone talking with her parents, it would be unfair to say, "You're always on the phone with your folks! Do you love me or them?" Such a question is unfair in so far as my wife should not have to choose between loving her parents or her husband.

Likewise, mothers-in-law

should not put their sons in a position of having to choose between their mothers and their wives.

This particular issue arises more often when the deployed son may be the only child, the "baby" of the family or the son of divorced parents who was raised by his mother. Nevertheless, even such moms need to be willing to recognize that her

son's first priority is to his wife and children.

On the other hand, if there are exceptional circumstances (e.g., mother has been diagnosed with a terminal disease), then most military couples, regardless of past bad in-law experiences, would not hesitate to make an exception and invite the mother of the servicemember to be present.

Survey continued from page 11

online through a secure Web site.

Filling out the online version provides the convenience of being able to complete the survey quicker and allows the option of partially filling out the survey and

coming back at a later time to complete and submit it.

If selected to participate, community members are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to voice their opinion on Army

MWR. The greater the number of responses, the more accurate and helpful the information is in guiding the Army in providing the MWR programs the community wants and needs.

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Community news briefly

Library features ducks, geese

Children's storytimes continue at 1:30 p.m. on Saturdays in May. Ducks and geese are the animals of the month featured on the display rack by the circulation desk. The featured author/illustrators are Doreen Cronin and Audrey, Don and Douglas Woods.

May 14 — "Giggle, Giggle, Quack" by Doreen Cronin, is the tale of what happens when the farm animals trick Farmer Bob into following their orders. It's pizza with anchovies for the hens, bubble baths for the pigs and movies for the cows.

May 21 — In "Duck for President" also by Doreen Cronin, the Farmer's Duck hits the campaign trail, but soon discovers that elected office isn't all it's "quacked" up to be.

Storytimes are open to all military families, and there is no charge. Parents must accompany children under 10. The Ft. Riley Post Library is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Paper to print wishes for dad

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Stars and Stripes, the daily newspaper of the U.S. military, will host a free Father's Day Message online posting service at Stripes.com until 4 p.m. May 27.

A selection of messages sent to those stationed in the Middle East will appear in a special printed edition to be inserted in Stars and Stripes Middle East June 19 issue.

If messages received by the May 27 deadline will be published online at Stripes.com beginning on Father's Day, June 19, including those sent to recipients in the Middle East.

"Due to limitations on Internet access for our forward deployed, we decided to print some of the messages just for the Middle East," said Stars and Stripes Chief Operating Officer Max J. Lederer Jr.

Anticipating that many fathers in contingency areas will not have time to read messages online, Stars and Stripes will add a box to the online message posting so people can check it if their recipients are in the Middle East.

Those checked messages will be extracted and some will be

To send message:

Go to Stripes.com on the Web.

Click on the Father's Day Messages button, anytime until May 27.

printed in the special section.

"It's an expensive proposition for Stars and Stripes, but we believe it is very important that our down-range readers don't miss out on special occasions like this," Lederer added. Stars and Stripes will print as many of the Middle East messages as possible.

Stars and Stripes will publish all messages online, as long as they are received via its online message board by the May 27 deadline.

Only messages received online will be published. Stars and Stripes will make every attempt to print all the messages received for Middle East recipients, but reserves the right to limit the number of messages actually published in the special Middle East Father's Day Messages insert.

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, May 13, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

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Sports news in brief

Young players sought for play

Youth Sports is offering spring baseball, softball and T-ball registration. Children from 5 to 13 years old are eligible. Walk-in registration will be held from noon to 5 p.m. at the Central Enrollment Registry in Building 6620.

For more information, call Central Enrollment Registry at (785) 239-9478 or (785) 239-5077.

Dollar deals offered at lanes

See what \$1 can get you at the Custer Hill Bowling Center. Join us Wednesdays from May 4 August 31 between 6-10 pm for all types of dollar specials. Buy a \$2 wristband and bowl for \$1 per game, rent your shoes for only \$1, and try some of our tasty food for only \$1. Call the bowling center at (785) 239-4366 for more information.

Lousy bowler league to begin

Do your friends refuse to let you bowl with them because you are so bad? Sign up at the Custer Hill Bowling Center for a nine-week bowling league designed for lousy bowlers. Bowl every Wednesday evening from June 15 through Aug. 10 with three to five of your fellow amateurs for only \$80 per person. For more information, call the Custer Hill Bowling Center at (785) 239-4366.

Youth bowling camps slated

This summer Custer Hill Bowling Center will be holding three youth bowling camps. Each camp is two weeks long. The fee is \$100 per person. Camps will be held June 13-24, July 11-22, and August 4-12.

For more information, call (785) 738-7104 or the Custer Hill Bowling Center at 239-4366.

Hours changed at Outdoor Rec

Outdoor Rec hours of operation will change May 29 through Sept. 10.

The new hours of operation will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The rec center will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

For more information, call 239-2249.

Scion slam tournament set

Fort Riley's Morale Welfare & Recreation directorate, in association with Scion, Gatorade and XM satellite, will host the Scion Slam three-on-three basketball tournament at Rally Point.

The event starts off with a party from 8 to 10 p.m. May 13, with free food and giveaways while patrons dance the night away. The tournament gets under way at 8 a.m. May 14.

The first-place team will win \$1,000, second place earns \$300 and the third-place team will get \$100. The tournament is open to authorized MWR patrons. Register online at www.scion.com/scionslam or stop by King Field House. For more information, call 239-3733.

12 Army wrestlers earn berths

By Tim Hipps
Army News Service

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Twelve All-Army wrestlers earned berths in the U.S. World Team Trials by finishing among the top seven in their respective weight classes in the 2005 U.S. National Wrestling Championships April 29 and 30.

Those who won national championships at the Las Vegas Con-

vention Center earned top seeds and will advance directly to the championship series finals in the world team trials scheduled for June 18 and 19 in Ames, Iowa. Staff Sgt. Dremiel Byers and Sgt. Iris Smith led the All-Army team by winning their respective weight classes, as did Sgt. Tina George, a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program who competed for New

York Athletic Club because her WCAP paperwork was not completed in time for the tournament.

Byers, one of only four Americans to win a Greco-Roman world championship, defeated New York Athletic Club's Russ Davie in the Greco heavyweight final.

"Getting back [to the world team trials] gives me an opportunity to measure myself against some of the top wrestlers in the

world," said Byers, who won a world championship in 2002.

Byers flashed five fingers after being awarded a plaque for winning the title, signifying his fifth national championship.

"I won't dwell on what happened here today," he said. "I just want to hit the ground running and get ready for the [world team] trials."

Smith won her fourth national

crown by defeating defending champion Ali Bernard of New Ulm, Minn., in the women's 158.5-pound freestyle finale.

"She can go out there and score points - that's never been a problem for her," said Staff Sgt. Shon Lewis, WCAP wrestling coach. "Tonight she stuck with the game plan and finished the match."

George won her third national

See *Wrestlers*, Page 16

Here it comes



Post/Blackmon

MP forward David Huniak (second from left) prepares to take a shot on the goal while Scott Martin (far left) defends and Justin Bates, Branson James and goalie Michael Hobbie, all of 331st Sig. Co., prepare to defend.

Signalmen win season soccer title

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

The 331st Signal Company was named regular season soccer champions after ending its May 2 game against the 924th Military Police Co. in a 0-0 tie. The tie left the Signalmen with the best league record at 2-1-0.

"Being the regular season champs is great. We did not have a team until about three days before the season started," said Sgt. John Millsap. "We go out to have some fun and make sure everyone who wants to play gets to play. The plan has worked out well for us."

Millsap said that teamwork and athleticism were added advantages. "Our team speed, aggressiveness and team cohesion enabled us to get to the ball quicker than the teams we have played and helped to gain the advantage on the field," he said.

The 1st Engineer Battalion finished in second with a 2-1 record. The Engineers beat Medical Department Activity 8-0 May 2.

The MPs ended with a 1-1-1 record, while MEDDAC went 0-3. The 10th Air Support Operations Squadron forfeited its season early on because it lacked players. In tournament action May 10, 331st Sig. Co. defeated MEDDAC 2-0 and the 1st Eng. Bn. beat 924th MP Bn., 2-0.



Post/Blackmon
DA police officer Ronald Desjarlais (center), playing for the 924th MP Co., heads the ball over Douglas Starzak of the 331st Sig. Co., while a fellow MP player (left) looks on.

Late results:

The 1st Eng. Bn. won the post tournament 2-1 May 11 against 331st Sig. Co. Next week's Post will have story and photos.

Troopers' tennis team competes

Staff report

The Fort Riley Middle School tennis team played in the Junction City Middle School mixed doubles tournament April 29.

The No. 1 doubles team - Barbara Commons and Collin Reese - placed third in the tournament. The No. 4 doubles team - Randi Hinkley and Tony Troy - also placed third.

Trooper teams placing fourth were: Natalie Niebres and Cody Waterman, Shannel Johnson and Stanley Matthews, Marguerite Martin and Larry Mitchell, and Ashley Brockman and AC Taylor.

The boys' tennis team wrapped up its season May 4 at Salina. The girls' team finishes its season May 11 at McPherson.

Bass group picks Milford for tourney

Staff report

The leader in professional-amateur bass fishing tournaments, Central Pro-Am Association, is coming to the Fort Riley region Oct. 1-2.

The association chose Milford Lake for the 2005 Central Pro-Am Association \$175,000 Ranger-Mercury Pro-Am Bass Fishing Championship.

This is the first time in the 17-year history of the Central Pro-Am Association that it will conduct an event in Kansas.

Tournament promoters expect this event to bring the top 40 professional and amateur division competitors from a five-state area to Milford Lake.

Distance runs slated

Fort Riley will host the annual 10-5-2 Prairie Run July 23.

Open to the public, the race offers two-mile, five-mile and 10-mile competition.

Active duty Soldiers who complete the 10-mile race may be eligible to participate on the Fort Riley Army 10-miler Team in Washington, D.C., in October.

For more information about Kansas races, visit sunflowerstrider.org and www.flinthilsharriers.com on the Web.

Upcoming races:
May 14 - Wamego, EMS Celebration Run/Walk, 4 miles

Only one venomous snake reported on post



Gibran Suleiman

Gibran Suleiman
Wildlife Biologist

There are many attributes that make Fort Riley a great place for training the men and women of America's Army. One aspect that many might overlook is the relative lack of threat from venomous snakes.

In fact there has only been one species of venomous snake ever documented on Fort Riley, it is the cop-

perhead. The timber rattlesnake and the Massasauga rattlesnake have been documented near Fort Riley, but never within the Fort's boundaries.

Copperheads are distinctive in their looks. They have seven to 20 lighted brownish cross bands on their back and sides.

Their pupils are elliptical, similar to a cat eye, and all copperheads have

a small heat-sensing pit towards the tip of the head, which is used for thermal imaging.

Copperheads do not have any kind of rattle on their tail, but can vibrate the tip of their tail when aggravated. They also emit a strong smelling musk when aggravated.

When compared to many non-venomous snakes, copperheads are rela-

tively heavy bodied. Adult copperheads typically achieve lengths of two to three feet.

Copperheads eat a variety of prey items. They are particularly fond of rodents, frogs and lizards.

Fort Riley is located at the extreme western border of the copperhead's range. Surprisingly, copperheads are relatively common on Fort Riley. Several individual copperheads have

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Wrestlers

continued from page 15

championship by defeating Sunkist Kids' Marcie Van Dusen in the women's freestyle 121-pound weight class.

Two-time U.S. Olympic Trials winner and four-time national champion Staff Sgt. Keith Sieracki moved up to the 185-pound Greco-Roman weight class and lost in the finals to New York Athletic Club's Brad Vering, a 2004 Olympian.

Staff Sgt. Marcel Cooper represented the Army in the men's Greco-Roman 145.5-pound final, losing to Gator Wrestling Club's Harry Lester, who upset top-seeded Sgt. Oscar Wood in the semifinals. Wood, a 2004 Olympian, also lost to Sgt. Glenn Garrison, who finished third in the weight class.

Wood, who finished fifth, took a break from wrestling after the Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, and is still working his way back to top form.

"The world team trials are still six weeks away," Lewis said. "He's going to be ready to go."

Cooper, a former member of the All-Marine wrestling team and a national champion in 2001, battled a stomach virus throughout the tourney.

Capt. Eric Albarracin, normal-

ly a freestyle wrestler, competed in Greco-Roman for the first time in the national championships and finished third in the 121-pound division.

Coupled with a freestyle victory in the Western Regional Qualifier in March at Laramie, Wyo., he's qualified in both disciplines for the world team trials.

Staff Sgt. Duane Martin, Sgt. Jess Hargrave, Pfc. Keith Ahearn and Capt. Neal Rodak earned berths in the world team trials by finishing among the top seven in their respective weight classes.

Pfc. Jermaine Hodge and Pvt. Everette McDaniel just missed the cutoff by finishing eighth. Five other All-Army wrestlers failed to place.

All told, Lewis said the All-Army team earned a grade of C-plus or B-minus.

"We weren't able to bring home the team title, but we had a good presence," he said.

It's only a matter of time, Byers said, until the Soldiers regain their form that captured four national Greco-Roman team titles in the previous five years.

Tim Hipps writes for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center in Alexandria, Va.



Post/Blackmon

Middle school Troopers compete in Junction City

(At left) Trooper eighth-grader Andrew Birchmeier "flops" over the high jump bar at the Junction City Middle School track meet May 10. (At right), Trooper seventh-grader Raven Townsend throws the shot-put at the same meet. Results were not available at press time.

Troopers place in Lakewood track, field meet

Staff report

Several Fort Riley Middle School track and field competitors placed in the top six of their events at the Lakewood Middle School meet May 5.

7th grade boys/girls

First place

Amanda Hollis, 1,600-meter, 6:11.95

Second place

Meshawn Armstrong, 800, 2:54

Third place

Jenna McArthur, 100, 13.85

Fourth place

Taylor Berry, Michaela Dycus, 400 relay, 1:01

Kalae Maio, McArthur, 1,600-meter relay, 4:54

Fifth place

Kayla Soper, 200, 31.31

Thomas Miskevish, 800, 2:35.44

Sixth place

Shannon Grammel, Victoria Hill, Quantisha Howard, Shaniece Ruiz, 400 relay, 1:01

Seventh place

Tara Haag, Brittini Knapp, Tiyanna Simon, Cassandra Townsend, 800-medley relay, 2:35.14

Esteban Perez, Jatarious Ray, 400 relay, 1:01

Jonathan Spurlock, Michael Wilkerson, 800 relay, 2:03.14

Regis Bigness, Elzinga, Perez, Gunner Schritenthal, 400 relay, 1:04.11

Steven Delio, LaDexter Dogans, Ray, Armogen Walker, 800-medley relay, 2:14

8th grade girls/boys

Second place

Catherine Carmichael, Yolanda Reid, Marina Rodriguez, Grace Simpson, 1,600 relay, 4:48

Carmichael, 200, 29.59

Rynae McArthur, discus, 77-1/2

Angelique Foye, long jump, 15-1 1/2

Forika McDougald, Randy Moss, Derek Thrash, Christopher Toombs, 1,600 relay, 3:54

Third place

Carmichael, Kanesha Hamilton, Reid, Lara Vician, 800 relay, 2:00.96

Jasmine Hudson, 100, 14.55

Fourth place

Thrash, 400, 1:00.22

Toombs, 100, 12.67

Fifth place

Hudson, 200, 29.59

Reid, long jump, 13-9 1/2

Sixth place

McDougald, 100, 13.12

Wildside

continued from page 15

been found during reptile surveys conducted by the Conservation Division.

Due to their secretive nature and quality camouflage copperheads can coexist near or in residential areas. They typically will remain undiscovered, but occasionally one is found near people's homes.

The venom of the copperhead is mild and rarely fatal. There have not been any human fatalities from a copperhead bite

reported in Kansas over the last 50 years.

Although rarely fatal, copperhead bites are painful. Besides the pain, swelling of the immediate area around the bite area will also be immediately obvious. Due to the swelling, any tight fitting clothing or jewelry should be removed immediately after a bite occurs.

The most important thing to remember if bitten is to get to a hospital calmly and safely.

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

Page 18

America's Warfighting Center

Friday, May 13, 2005

Leisuretime ideas

At the movies:

The Barlow Theater doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under age 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

May 13 – Sin City (R)

May 14 – Beauty Shop (PG-13)

May 15 – Sin City (R)

May 19 – Beauty Shop (PG-13)

May 20 – 1 Fever Pitch (PG-13)

May 21 – The Longest Yard (PG-13)

This is a premier showing from the Distributors. Tickets are free and available at all PX facilities while they last. For those who cannot get a ticket, the theater will open to the public at 6:45 p.m. the theater in an attempt to fill all seats.

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Wichita:

What: River Festival. 9-day festival with events and activities for all ages including outdoor concerts, arts/crafts, games, traveling exhibits, food, and athletic activities.

When: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. now through May 14

Where: Downtown

Phone: (316) 267-2817 or (877) 934-3378

Admission: \$3 button

Fort Scott:

What: Antiques Outdoor marketplace featuring antiques, primitives, saddles and tack, and architectural salvage.

When: Third Saturday of each month through Oct. 15

Where: Corner of Wall and Scott Avenue

Phone: (620) 224-2250

Admission: Free

Eureka:

What: Fall River Canoe Trips. Up to three-hour canoe trips six to eight miles down Fall River. Specializing in group trips.

When: Thursday through Tuesday through Oct. 30

Where: 416 E. River

Phone: (620) 583-6481

Admission: Varies

Hamilton:

What: 5 R Ranch Wagon/Trail Rides. Horse-drawn wagon rides and horseback rides that take you through the rolling Flint Hills of Greenwood County. Campfire lunch included.

When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. by reservation through Dec. 1

Where: 2546 W. Road S.

Phone: (620) 678-3829

Admission: \$25

What's to do?

*Post/Heronemus*

Visitors can wander through a wonderland of unusual rock formations at Rock City, near Minneapolis, Kan. The park is just one of many major attractions available to travelers in and through the Sunflower State.

Travel promises 'American experience'

By Beverly Hurley

You don't have to go far on vacation to find the heart and soul of America because for Kansans much of it is here in their own backyard. Kansas is filled with heritage and history, unique attractions, mesmerizing museums, natural beauty, and much more waiting to be discovered.

There is no shortage of top attractions in the state, including many that can be found only in Kansas. The Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson is an affiliate of the Smithsonian and has the largest collection of space artifacts outside the Smithsonian's Washington D.C. museum, including the original Apollo 13 command module Odyssey. The unique Rolling Hills Zoo in Salina is fast becoming a top zoological park with its impressive collection of rare and endangered animals. Few towns capture the spirit of the American cowboy as Dodge

City, where you can stroll the streets of the Boot Hill Museum and relive the days of the Old West.

For heart pounding action, plan a trip to one of the state's motor sports facilities that are fast becoming top tourism draws for visitors from around the country. The new Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Heartland Park in Topeka, or the Dodge City Raceway Park offer racing excitement for even the casual race fan.

Everyone can be a kid again in Kansas. Wichita's Exploration Place offers a hands-on approach to science and discovery. You can see rare fossils at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History in Hays, including the famed "fish with a fish" fossil, and the Fick Fossil History Museum in Oakley. Or spend a day at one of the state's top zoos for a family fun adventure.

Kansans can find a number of places to reflect on their historic past. The Kansas Museum

of History in Topeka preserves much of the state's history and showcases it for all Kansans to enjoy. You can reflect on the state's role as gatekeeper to the American West at a number of frontier military forts that offer living history programs. Two of these forts have the distinction of being National Historic Sites - Fort Scott and Fort Larned. The state's heritage is deeply rooted in the Native American people who once inhabited the land called Kansas. Their culture is honored in many museums across the state. Or discover our African-American heritage by visiting the Buffalo Soldier memorials in Junction City and Leavenworth or the historic all-black community of Nicodemus in western Kansas.

You can reflect on the past through famous Kansans. The Eisenhower Center in Abilene honors Kansas' favorite son, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and is one of the nation's top presidential libraries. Atchison honors its

famous aviatrix, Amelia Earhart, with tours of her childhood home and the Stan Herd earthwork designed in her likeness.

Walk through the prairie in Kansas and you will experience one of the four remaining untouched tallgrass prairies left in the world. The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Strong City and the Konza Prairie Natural Area near Manhattan are just a few of the places to experience the beauty of the prairie. You can experience the beauty of the American bison at two game refuges, Maxwell Wildlife Refuge in Canton and the Finney Game Refuge in Garden City. Wildlife of the airborne type is in abundance here too. Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Great Bend are both Wetlands of International Importance for migrating shorebirds. Kansas is one of only two states to have two international wetlands. The other is Florida.

What's so big about Kansas?

The wide-open spaces in Kansas allow people to dream and make big things happen, state tourism officials claim. The core of the new Kansas image campaign is the message: "Kansas. As big as you think." Here's why:

Big thinker

One of the world's big thinkers, and one of the most famous Kansans, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, called

Abilene home. The Eisenhower Center there includes his Presidential Library and boyhood home.

Big sunflowers

A giant painting of Vincent Van Gogh's sunflowers rises above Goodland. The 80-foot tall steel easel with a 24-foot by 30-foot tall painting of the famed sunflowers is easy to see from Interstate 70 passing the western Kansas town known for

sunflower growing and oil processing. Part of the worldwide Big Easel project by Canadian artist Cameron Cross, Goodland is the home to the only one in the United States.

Big ball of twine

The world's largest ball of twine in Cawker City measures more than 38 feet in circumference and weighs more than 16,750 pounds. More than 300,000 people visit the big ball

each year.

Big salt

Hutchinson is home of the largest salt deposit in the world. It's 100 miles long by 40 miles wide and 600 to 1,000 feet below the surface of the earth. More than 300,000 tons of rock salt is mined there each year. The new Underground Salt Museum will open in the spring of 2006 with a visitor's center 650-feet below ground.

Center displays Indian artwork

Staff report

The American Indian Art Center in Abilene is located at 206 South Buckeye, near the Bow Studio and Art Gallery. The center is American Indian produced fine art and crafts.

The art center features nationally recognized artists from Kansas and surrounding states.

Pat Murphy, owner of the art center, says the American Indian Art Center is dedicated to promoting Native American craftspeople and artists from the region.

There are 100 artisans from 30 Woodland and Plains tribes selling their work here.

The art and crafts at the center include turtle shell purses, beaded buckskin dress, jewelry and multiple paintings made of natural products like rawhide, feathers, horse hair and earth paints.

The American Indian Art Center is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Call (785) 263-0090 for more information.

Parks admit Soldiers for free

Staff report

Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. announced its "Heroes Salute" to honor the U.S. Armed Services by offering free single-day admission to its SeaWorld and Busch Gardens parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen and as many as three direct dependents now through Dec. 31.

Members entitled to free admission under the program must register online at www.herosalute.com or show a Department of Defense photo ID at the entrance plaza of participating parks.

Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their servicemember present, but an adult must accompany minor dependents.

For more information, visit <http://www.anheuser-busch.com>.

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